

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Rec'd: MAY 15, 1959

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Info

FROM: GENEVA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: CAHTO 7, MAY 15, 5PM

NIACT

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM THE SECRETARY.

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:R

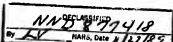
AT SELWYN LLOYD'S DINNER LAST NIGHT WITH GROMYKO PRESENT, CONVERSATION CENTERED LARGELY ON UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE WESTERN PEACE PLAN TO THE RUSSIANS. THE REASON GIVEN WAS THE SAME AS PREVIOUSLY, THAT THE MATTERS ENCOMPASSED WERE TOO COMPLICATED AND IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN SUGGESTIONS ON BERLIN AND THE PEACE TREATY. THERE APPEARED LITTLE ELASTICITY IN HIS ATTITUDE.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE CONVERSATION IS BEING SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT BUT I AM QUOTING ONE PARAGRAPH SINCE I HOPE YOU APPROVE THE LAST SENTENCE:

"IN RESPONSE TO MR. GROMYKO'S COMMENT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES IN ITS DESIRE TO SOLVE THE GERMAN PROBLEM, THE SECRETARY ASKED WHY THE MAY 27 DEADLINE HAD BEEN IMPOSED. HAD NOT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THREATENED THE CONCLUSION OF A SEPARATE PEACE TREATY WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT BE AN ATTEMPT UNILATERALLY TO ABROGATE THE RIGHTS OF THE FOUR POWERS IN BERLIN? MR. GROMYKO REPLIED THAT HE WAS SORRY THAT WE HAD RAISED THE MAY 27 ISSUE--THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO RAISE IT UNTIL THE END OF THE CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY THEN POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUMMIT CONFERENCE IF THIS MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ENDED ON A THREATENING NOTE. CERTAINLY."

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GENEVA CAHTO-7  
762.00/5-1559

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-2- FROM GENEVA, CAHTO 7, MAY 15, 5PM

CERTAINLY THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT GO TO A SUMMIT MEETING AS A RESULT OF ANY ULTIMATUM OF THIS KIND.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WELL TO MAKE THIS POINT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR AT THE OUTSET SO THAT, EVEN IF WE FAILED HERE, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE UNDER NO MISAPPREHENSION THEY COULD FORCE YOUR GOING TO THE SUMMIT BY THREATS.

I HOPE YOU APPROVE MY GOING TO ITALY TOMORROW. I FELT DOING SO WOULD GIVE THE ITALIANS A FEELING OF PARTICIPATION AND HELP TO OVERCOME THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT BEING MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE.

I THINK WE ARE LIKELY TO GET DOWN TO REAL BUSINESS ON MONDAY.

FAITHFULLY, CHRIS<sup>2</sup>.

HERTER

ROW

SECRET

